

REMARKS

Applicants requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

A new title has been presented as requested by the Examiner. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's objection are requested.

Claims 41-56 are pending in the present application with Claims 41 and 48 being the independent claims. Claims 1-40 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 41-56 have been added. Applicants submit that support for the new claims can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-40 were rejected under 35.U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,845,008 (Katoh et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in Claim 41, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of transferring image data defining an image in packets such that each packet contains image data for a tile of the image, testing the image data defining the image to determine whether the image data has characteristics of a copy-prohibited image, dividing the image into a plurality of blocks for testing such that each block includes image data for an integer number of tiles, and generating a control signal to prevent the output of image data faithfully reproducing the image in response to detection of image data having characteristics of a copy-prohibited image. With these features, a determination of whether image data has characteristics of a copy-prohibited image can be made quickly.

Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features. Katoh et al. discloses an image processing device that can reliably detect documents that may not be copied. It does so by finding a region in which a specific pattern may exist as specified by positioning marks, and extracts the region from

the image to determine whether the specific pattern exists in the extracted region.

However, that reference fails to disclose or suggest using packets (each corresponding to an image tile) as a unit of image transfer and fails to disclose or suggest dividing the image into blocks that include an integer number of tiles for detecting whether the image data has characteristics of a copy-prohibited image. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in Claim 41 is patentable over the cited art.

Independent Claim 48 recites similar features to those of Claim 41 and is believed patentable for similar reasons. The remaining claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the claims they depend from, as well as the other features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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